

LABOR CLARION

Official Journal of the San Francisco Labor Council (A.F.L.)

Vol. XLIII

San Francisco, March 10, 1944

No. 6

Hits Baruch Report—Urges Tripartite Body for Establishing Post-War Policy

President Green of the American Federation of Labor assailed the Baruch Post-War Report in an address recently because of its failure to provide for labor, industry and farmer representation in the formulation of basic policies.

Speaking at a luncheon of the Economic Club of Detroit, Green called for the establishment by Congress of a Reconstruction Commission, on which all elements of the population would be represented, to lay down the guiding rules for the nation's post-war program. He said:

Favors Single Administrator

"This Reconstruction Commission would not, of course, attempt to administer the post-war program. That task can well be entrusted to the hands of a single, competent administrator, as the Baruch report suggests. But the commission would be charged with the responsibility of formulating the general policies to be followed by the administrator. In that way we could achieve advance agreement and secure prior commitment to fundamental policies.

Answers Two Objections

"I have heard only two objections to this plan. The first is an evasion. It suggests that industry and labor can safeguard their interests through advisory committees already established under the War Production Board, and which operate in a consultative capacity. My impression, however, is that industry and labor have had enough of such consultation which usually comes after the fact and which constitutes merely an empty gesture toward real and democratic representation.

About "Pressure Groups"

"Secondly, some of our more subtle bureaucrats are heard to object to policy-making by 'pressure groups.' That phrase, 'pressure groups,' is part of the new terminology of some government officials whose ideas on America are bounded by the ten square miles of Washington. I resent the term. It is an insult to the workers, the businessmen and the farmers of America who, together, make up the vast majority of the American people. Organized labor, industry and agriculture are asking for representation in the formulation of post-war policies because they represent the American people. They demand a voice in decisions, not to promote their particular selfish interests, but to safeguard the American way of life for which millions of American boys are now fighting."

Liquidation of Controls

To assure success of the nation's post-war program, the A.F.L. president recommended prompt liquidation of government controls over labor and industry and the inauguration of a large-scale production drive.

One project which he specifically urged was the launching of a huge housing program to supply the needs of the American people and to provide employment.

In addition, Green said America must "meet the transition period courageously by providing a more adequate form of social security for the workers."

He asked that the National Employment Service be

reorganized to serve displaced war workers and demobilized soldiers who will be in urgent need of jobs. He added:

"Move Boldly and Swiftly"

"I urge that preparations be made now to move boldly and swiftly when the call comes for overnight conversion from wartime to peacetime production.

"American private industry faces the opportunity of a century in the post-war period—the opportunity to produce for peace on a scale even greater than it has shown it can do for war; the opportunity to establish an economy of plenty in America, instead of scarcity; the opportunity to supply jobs and provide increasingly better living conditions and educational advantages for the American people; the opportunity for people to save and invest—in short, the opportunity to justify the advantages of our free system."

LABOR RELATIONS COURSE ASKED

A proposal that a course in labor relations be given to New York teachers to fit them better to teach the subject to their pupils with the aid of the textbook on the subject now being prepared under state auspices was made by the Rev. William J. Kelley, member of the State Labor Relations Board, at a conference of 100 high school teachers.

Anti-Labor "Initiative" Being Circulated

As reported in the last issue of the LABOR CLARION, a campaign in behalf of an initiative petition to amend the Constitution of California by adding an amendment having for its purpose the hamstringing of organized labor has been inaugurated. And union members are urged to be on constant guard against any move that would aid in forwarding the nefarious scheme—a scheme which though primarily intended to place handicaps against union organizations would in addition create chaos and discord on the home front at a time when unity is an essential requirement. The very suggestion of such proposal, no matter what the final outcome, cannot help but bring about the latter-mentioned condition of disunity.

Petitions for signatures are already in circulation, according to reports received by the State Federation of Labor's office. The Federation declares it to be imperative that every union inform its membership by mail or otherwise not to sign ANY petition unless such petition is indorsed by the responsible labor organizations.

Often many signatures are obtained through misrepresentation to and ignorance on the part of those solicited. There is no question but what similar efforts will be made in this campaign. That is why it is extremely important that every member of the labor movement and their friends be told the whole facts involved in this issue, that they may not be hoodwinked into signing one of these petitions.

State Federation officials report that the people behind this subversive move are not identified as yet,

Senator Shelley Warns Of Penalties for Fraud On Jobless Insurance Act

In this state, 1205 persons have been convicted for making fraudulent statements in order to get benefit payments under the California Unemployment Insurance Act during the past four years, it was revealed last week by Senator John F. Shelley, chairman of the Senate committee investigating unemployment insurance. In 241 of these cases, a jail sentence was imposed on the individual claimants, the records of the law enforcement section of the Department of Employment indicated.

Many Unaware of Provisions

"Too many people are completely unaware of the severe provisions of the unemployment insurance act," warned Senator Shelley, "and have failed to realize that ignorance of the law will not excuse them from fine or imprisonment." Under Section 101 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, it is a crime to willfully make a false statement for the purpose of securing benefit payments.

In addition to the criminal penalties, money obtained in violation of the law must be returned. Many citizens are discovering it "the hard way." In the San Francisco area alone over sixty people are today paying back to the Department of Employment money received through fraud or mistake, and in many of

(Continued on Page Two)

but that the Federation hopes to be able in the near future to expose the backers of this contemptible attack on the unity of the home front. The title of the petition, itself, "The Right of Employment," is grossly misleading, and indicates the strategy of this concealed clique has been devised to create as much confusion as possible in the hope of putting over their scheme aimed at destruction of trade unions in California.

The only people at present known to be sponsoring this initiative proposal are John B. Knight, State Assemblyman from a southern California district, and the "California Associates." John B. Knight's entire voting record, as far as labor is concerned, has been extremely bad. As for the California Associates, it seems to consist only of a lone office, with one desk, in a prominent building in San Francisco.

That this campaign should operate through such dubious channels is in itself indicative of a practice that is not consistent with open and fair play. If the people who are actually behind this move are not ashamed of it, there is no reason why they should not establish their identity and openly acknowledge responsibility for the proposal.

Any union is urged—again—to be alert against the campaign that is now underway to obtain the necessary signatures—178,765—within 90 days in order to qualify this petition for the ballot in the regular election. Too much thoroughness cannot be used by the unions in acquainting their membership and friends with the full significance of this move.

Registration of Voters for the May Election Closes in 15 Days

Discussion by Shelley on Jobless Insurance Act

(Continued from Page One)

these cases the benefit payments were received as far back as 1939.

Investigation In Progress

"It seems the auditing and law enforcements sections of the Department of Employment have done very quietly and without publicity a fairly good job," said Senator Shelley. "However," he continued, "the Senate committee on unemployment insurance is making an investigation to ascertain whether even more attention should be devoted to the enforcement of the criminal provisions of the insurance law which are designed to cut out the 'chiseler,' whether he be the worker trying to get benefits or the employer trying to evade the tax or to defeat or reduce the payment of benefits to a bona fide claimant." Shelley further pointed out:

Strict Enforcement Is Vital

"Unless we strictly enforce these policing provisions of the insurance act now and develop an expert prosecuting force so that it will be extremely unhealthy to attempt to evade the tax or file an invalid claim, the post-war period will result in a heavy and unwarranted loss of public funds, which have been set aside since 1936 by the honest workers and employers of this state for the purpose of alleviating the evils of unemployment."

Committee Session

Senator Shelley is in attendance at a meeting of the committee which is being held in the State building in Los Angeles, convening yesterday (Thursday) and which will continue until tomorrow. It is a resumption of the public hearings held in San Francisco recently. Consideration is being given to post-war employment and its relationship to the unemployment insurance fund; also whether an increase in the tax might be necessary, "experience rating," seasonal employment, agricultural labor, universal coverage, a state-wide employment service, and other related matters.



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Register at the Labor Temple

Registrar Cameron King has stationed a deputy at the Labor Temple, 2940 Sixteenth street, corner Capp, for the purpose of facilitating the registration of voters who visit the Temple or who reside in its neighborhood. The registration desk is located in the ground floor lobby and the service will be provided daily from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. *Remember: You have only fifteen days left in which to register. DO IT NOW!*

Annual Report of N.L.R.B.

Employers are increasingly accepting the principles underlying the National Labor Relations Act and employees are using the National Labor Relations Board's machinery more, rather than resorting to direct action and strikes, Dr. Harry A. Millis, chairman, said in submitting the board's eighth annual report to Congress.

Fewer charges of employer unfair labor practices were received than in any of the five preceding years. Requests for secret ballot elections exceeded the total for any year since the board's inception. Dr. Millis declared that the unprecedented recourse to orderly elections was all the more noteworthy, since 75 per cent of all elections were one-union situations.

The total of 9543 cases filed was the third largest in the board's history. Of these, 6140 were election cases, and 3403 were unfair labor practices.

HONOR LATE PUBLIC PRINTER

A Liberty ship, named after the late Cornelius Ford, former Public Printer of the United States, has been launched at Providence, R. I. Mr. Ford was a life-long member of the International Typographical Union, and served as president of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor for eleven years. He was appointed Public Printer in 1913 by President Wilson and served in that capacity during World War I.

NEW SAN DIEGO DAILY

Announcement has been made by Clinton D. McKinnon, publisher of the new San Diego Daily Journal, that the first issue of the paper would be published on March 17. The central labor council of that city has gone on record as favoring a paper which would present an uncolored and unbiased version of the news and with an editorial policy fair to organized labor, and is also urging that all labor support the new daily in every possible manner.

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Candidates Are Lined Up For May Primary Election

Filing dates for candidates' filing in the May state primary elections closed last Tuesday night.

In the San Francisco congressional districts Representative Richard J. Welch will be unopposed in the Fifth, while in the Fourth district Representative Thomas Rolph, the incumbent, and Frank R. Havenner will be the candidates.

In the local Assembly districts, Thomas A. Maloney, in the Twentieth, and Albert C. Wollenberg, in the Twenty-first, are unopposed. Candidates in the remaining districts are as follows:

Nineteenth District—Bernard R. Brady (incumbent), Edgar C. Levey, Herbert E. Allen.

Twenty-second—Joseph J. Pape and George D. Collins (incumbent).

Twenty-third—William Clifton Berry (incumbent), Al J. Quinn.

Twenty-fourth—Elwood A. Carpenter, Oliver Bredson, James M. Burris, Harry Jorgensen, Edward F. O'Day (incumbent).

Twenty-fifth—Gerald P. Haggerty (incumbent), Michael P. Harrington, Mack J. Koblick.

Twenty-sixth—Edward M. Gaffney (incumbent), Joseph T. Monteleone.

Two incumbent Superior Judges are unopposed. They are Judge Timothy Fitzpatrick, Department 2, and Judge James G. Conlan, Department 3. In the four courts where there are contests for the judgeship, the following have filed:

Court No. 1—Herbert C. Kaufman, John J. Van Nostrand (incumbent).

Court No. 4—I. L. Harris (incumbent), Clarence W. Morris.

Court No. 5—Sylvain J. Lazarus (incumbent), Maurice C. Ryan.

Court No. 6—Elizabeth Cassidy, Alfred J. Fritz (incumbent), Twain Michelsen.

The final date for eligible voters to register in order to participate in the May election is April 6.

For Your Union Meeting

The San Francisco Labor Council this week forwarded to each of its affiliated unions a communication advising them of the effort now being made by anti-labor groups to procure signatures on the initiative petition for placing on the ballot a constitutional amendment which, if carried, would nullify every existing union agreement.

A copy of the proposed amendment is inclosed with the Labor Council's communication. The communication should be read in full at the meeting of every labor organization.

SAN FRANCISCO JOB PLACEMENTS

Placements in San Francisco reported by the U. S. Employment Service for January totaled 10,550, compared to 11,956 last January. Industrial placements, numbering 9985, were 2.4 per cent under last January; commercial placements, numbering 565, were 67.2 per cent under last January.

They don't call it a strike, but doctors are leaving the District of Columbia municipal hospital because they don't like conditions there.

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Huge War Show in Civic Auditorium Will Disclose Grim Realities of Warfare on World Battlefronts

An Armed Services Show to bring out the real inside story of our war effort to date is announced by the chambers of commerce and labor organizations of the Bay Area through a committee headed by City Manager Charles Schwanenberg of Oakland.

The show will be staged by the War Department, with units of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Merchant Marine participating. It will be presented on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, March 19, 20 and 21, at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium, and on March 24, 25 and 26 at the Municipal Auditorium in Oakland.

"Win the War" Theme

The show will bring home the urgent need for redoubling efforts to win the war by telling the plain, unvarnished facts about what is going on. The real strength of our enemies and a great deal of information previously off-the-record will be revealed.

Uncensored official Army and Navy motion pictures revealing the grim realities of actual warfare on the world's battlefronts, sea lanes and in the air, as well as exhibits of captured heavy enemy equipment, will highlight the show.

Outstanding war heroes returned from the battlefronts will be speakers and they will tell a story of

what our boys in uniform are doing to bring victory and eventual peace to the world.

Admission to all performances will be free, *but tickets will be necessary*. Where and how to obtain admission tickets will be announced within a few days. The distribution will be handled by a sub-committee headed by Anthony C. Ballerini, business manager of Lodge 1327, Machinists, San Francisco.

Labor Men on Committee

The committee making arrangements for the event comprises labor officials and business men, among the former group being Anthony Ballerini; Charles Real of the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Oakland, and Frank C. McDonald, of the State Building and Construction Trades Council. Anthony L. Noriega of the Moving Picture Operators' Union, and president of the California State Federation of Labor, has been named a member of the publicity committee.

In announcing the coming show the committee states that the War Department feels it is time to take the public into its confidence and let them know the real facts about our war effort. The San Francisco Bay Area has been chosen as the first in the nation to receive this message because of the importance of this area in war production.

George Hardy of B.S.E.U. Enters the Armed Forces

George Hardy, the well known secretary of Building Service Employees' Union No. 87, and an organizer for the international union in that field of workers, has relinquished these positions in order to serve in the nation's armed forces. He departed Thursday of last week, and is now stationed at Monterey.

George has been secretary of No. 87 from the inception of the organization, in 1934, having worked with his father, Charles Hardy, in securing the charter and in organizing, in an outstandingly successful manner, that group of underprivileged workers. The elder Hardy is now a vice-president of the international union.

Wide Range of Activity

In addition to the immediate duties connected with his own local, George has been active in the organizing of janitors, elevator operators, window cleaners, apartment house employees and hospital workers throughout the entire State of California. Too, he has been instrumental in welding these groups into a strong organization, the California State Council of Building Service Employees, and has been elected the Council's secretary for eight consecutive terms. Any groups of workers seeking to improve their condition and to combine into a union organization always found both the elder and junior Hardy ready and willing to lend them advice and practical assistance.

George is 32 years of age, and has a wife and two children, the latter being Joan, 11 years, and Bobby, 8 years.

Seeks Radio Service

In earlier days, prior to becoming an official in the labor movement, he had been a radioman on merchant ships, and entered the Army with that branch of activity in view. Word received this week was to the effect that he already had passed examination in that field with a very high rating.

The departing official will be greatly missed by his own group and by many friends in other branches of the labor movement, and all join in wishing him safe and early return to his family and business activities. He is being succeeded in the position of secretary of No. 87 by Charles H. Woodie.

TAX UP FOR POST-WAR WORK

The City Council in Sheboygan Falls, Wis., increased the tax rate \$2 to provide a reserve fund to finance the community's new post-war improvement fund.

Denounce Attack by B.L.S. On Cost-of-Living Report

In prompt reply to an attack made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, on a cost-of-living report made by labor members of the Presidential Committee on the Cost of Living, George Meany and R. J. Thomas, the labor members, defended their report as "based on evidence from hundreds of American housewives."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, through Acting Commissioner A. Ford Hinrichs, declared that the labor report, made January 25, was "absolutely wrong" in finding that living costs had increased 43.5 per cent since January 1, 1941, instead of 23.4 per cent, as reported by the Bureau.

The Hinrichs' criticism of the labor members' report said it had not been supported by their data, that their assertions contained many "errors of fact" and that they had used "unrepresented data" to support their conclusions.

The reply of Meany and Thomas said that "no group of government bureaucrats have ever before had the audacity to insult millions of American housewives by telling them that their experiences are all wrong, and that they should instead try to live on B.L.S. statistics."

In closing, the labor men said: "We shall shortly make available to the Presidential Committee a full analysis of the B.L.S. confessions and laments which make the most insulting document from the Department of Labor to organized labor since its creation more than three decades ago."

Convicted of selling tomato paste at a total of \$106,000 above ceiling prices, a New York firm has been fined \$50,000.

Vetoes Race Hatred Bill

Acting Governor Cappelli of Rhode Island has vetoed a bill recently passed by the General Assembly under which "the publisher of any false and malicious statement intended to promote hatred of any group of persons on the ground of race or religion" would be guilty of libel.

The American Civil Liberties Union played a leading role in urging the veto. A telegram to the Governor from Arthur Garfield Hays, general counsel of the Union, said:

"The bill has the commendable object of attacking racial and religious hatred. But a long experience with legislative efforts to penalize opinions, however hateful, shows that no statute can be written in this field without risk of abridging legitimate freedom of speech. Wherever bills of this character have come before the courts they have been uniformly held unconstitutional."

The veto was supported by the *Providence Journal*, which said that "there is an overwhelming sense of decency in the State founded by Roger Williams for the people themselves to take care of the abuses that the statute would seek to correct. We believe the job of fighting bigotry is not the job of the State's police power but of the home, the school and the church. It cannot be imposed by the truncheon of the State."

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LABOR CLARION

Published Weekly by the
SAN FRANCISCO LABOR COUNCIL (A.F.L.)

Office, 101 Labor Temple, 2940 Sixteenth Street
San Francisco, 3, California
Telephone: HEMlock 3924

W. N. MAPPIN, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Year
Single subscriptions.....	\$1.50
To unions, each subscription.....	1.00
(When subscribing for entire membership)	

Single copies..... .05
Changes of address or additions to union mail lists must come through the secretary of each organization. Members are notified that this is obligatory.

Entered as second-class matter August 10, 1918, at the post office at San Francisco, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1944

Another Soldier Speaks Out

Before Pearl Harbor, Bruce Vardon was an instructor in English at the University of Wisconsin. Now he is wearing Uncle Sam's uniform in Italy. Occasionally he gets a bit of news from home. Recently he heard of the proposal by the President and others to draft labor of all citizens within certain ages. He sat down and wrote a letter to the *Capital Times* of Madison, Wis., saying, among other things:

"God knows we are eager to put the fairest construction possible on the policies of our Government, but this proposal, coming at this time, seems to wear only the dark and sinister colors of totalitarianism.

"The continuing attempts of the Government to lay still more and more restraints on the liberties of its citizens—all under the bright and bold flourish of patriotism—can inspire thinking men only with grave doubts and serious worries about the democracy for which we are fighting.

"The young men of the country are daily giving up their lives in defense of the principle of individual freedom and collective liberty. Are you going to sit by dumb and unprotesting while the fruits of victory are stealthily taken away before your unseeing eyes?

"Write your senator or your representative and question the need for this act, and if it is unnecessary and dangerous in your sight, as it is in mine, condemn it."

Concerning Accident Statistics

In a recent report to the Governor's Council, Director Paul Scharenberg of the California Department of Industrial Relations, and who is also chairman of the Industrial Accident Commission, made the following pertinent observation on accident statistics which are published from time to time without any "breakdown" of the figures being made:

"Statistics concerning accidents in the United States as released from time to time by the National Safety Council are startling indeed. Because accidents in industry seem to receive the greatest amount of publicity it is more or less taken for granted that the overwhelming number of accidents are industrial. This is not borne out by reliable national statistics. A majority of all accidents are non-industrial. For example, accidents caused by getting in or out of the standard American bathtub constitute a very substantial number of all accidents.

"In California, industrial accidents have steadily declined, considering their proportion with respect to population. There were no reliable figures prior to the enactment of the workmen's compensation law. However, statistics have been kept since that time, and indicate that in 1914, when California had a population of about 2,940,000, there were 691 industrial fatalities. In 1942, with an estimated population of 7,320,000, there were 671 industrial deaths; or expressing it in another way, the industrial death rate

per 100,000 population was in 1914, 23.5 and in 1942 it was 9.1.

"In analyzing these figures, it should be borne in mind that prior to 1914 there were very few industrial fatalities due to motor vehicles. In recent years, however, industrial deaths due to motor vehicles have been 25 to 35 per cent of all industrial fatalities, showing that the conditions in industry, excluding the hazards of the street and highway, have been reduced even more than indicated above."

Would Keep Tab on Radio

Press dispatches report that Silliman Evans, publisher of the *Chicago Sun*, has suggested legislation requiring the recording of every minute of broadcast, over every station, irrespective of the character of the program, the time, or the power of the station. Speaking before the National Council for Professional Education in Journalism, Mr. Evans said if false or misleading advertising had been printed in a newspaper or if libel had been committed, it was a matter of record, but added:

"Not so with the radio. It goes on the air, a credulous and unsuspecting public hears it and buys the fraudulent cure-all. But a split second after the broadcast is made, no proof of fraudulent representation or fake advertising can be proven, except by hearsay, and that over the air."

Mr. Evans asserted that the "limited monitoring" now done by the Federal Communications Commission is not sufficient and that legislation requiring the recording and filing of all broadcasts was essential.

Wartime congestion is blamed for a sharp upturn in the number of cases of meningitis, scarlet fever and measles being reported from all sections of the country, the U. S. Public Health Service recently declared.

Something entirely new in industrial relations was established when Baltimore's City Council passed a resolution approving the check-off system of collecting dues from city employees who are members of American Federation of Labor unions. Action was taken in face of a taxpayer's suit challenging not only the legality of the check-off, but the municipality's right to enter into collective bargaining arrangements.

Peter W. Eller, president of the Thompson-Starrett Company, Inc., and national referee for the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, has been elected president of the Building Trades Employers' Association of New York. Mr. Eller's labor record was such that he has been entrusted with the responsibility of making final decisions on jurisdictional disputes among the building trades unions.

Twenty-five Swedes, among them the president of the International Transport Workers' Federation, Charles Lindley, have submitted to the president of the Finnish republic a petition asking the release of six Social Democratic members of the Finnish Parliament who have been in jail since Finland's entry into the war because of their opposition to the war, and urging a more humane treatment of all political prisoners.

Despite food shortages of all kinds, the London *Economist* reports, full employment in Great Britain, assuring increased labor incomes, has caused a tremendous improvement in the nation's well-being. Scientific nutrition policy in the determination and distribution of rations also is said to have had an equally important effect. Consumption of milk among the poorer classes has increased by about 30 per cent, especially by mothers and children. A survey of families in Scottish industrial towns showed that the war had brought about a 20 per cent increase in the intake of important vitamins and minerals.

What Are "Equal Rights"? Subject Affecting Women

From "Life and Labor Bulletin,"
Issued by Women's Trade Union League

Since men and women are not identical, and since they have different social functions to perform, it is impossible to make them "equal" by a few sentences added to the Constitution. Almost everyone agrees that women should have equality of economic opportunity and that certain legal discriminations against women should be removed, but this is being done in the states, where the responsibility rests.

Failure to Grasp Meaning

A great deal of confusion still prevails as to what the so-called "Equal Rights" Amendment will do. Many persons do not realize that this amendment, if passed by Congress and ratified by the states, would render unconstitutional all laws giving essential protection to the health of women workers, and that utter confusion would reign even in the case of civil rights—property rights, inheritance laws, etc.—since it would be a question of which standard to adopt, the one pertaining to men or the one pertaining to women.

Last October 5 the House judiciary committee, which was charged with consideration of the Equal Rights Amendment, voted, 15 to 11, against reporting the measure out to the House of Representatives. On February 14 a "Discharge Petition" was placed on the Speaker's desk by Representative Cannon of Florida, which means that if 218 signatures can be obtained on the petition, the judiciary committee will be discharged from further responsibility in the matter and the amendment will automatically come to the floor of the House for consideration. (So far only a handful of congressmen have signed this petition.)

Emphatic Opposition Made Known

On hearing of the filing of the Discharge Petition the women workers in various parts of the country became aroused, and a number came to Washington—from Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago, New York, Baltimore and Wilmington—to talk with their own and other congressmen about the implications of this legislation with respect to working women.

One young worker from a precision instrument plant said to her congressman: "I don't want the kind of freedom which the Equal Rights Amendment would give me. Freedom to be exploited is not the kind of freedom I want."

Plan of Action Proposed

These out-of-town women did a magnificent job in the short time they were in Washington, and the congressmen seen so far have urged that our side be presented to as many members of the House as possible, since many members are new. Furthermore, even the wisest men do not realize offhand what issues are involved, and are prompted by their innate chivalry to say, "Why, of course, women should have equal rights with men!"

Nine of the largest national women's organizations are opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment, and a number of their representatives, some from other cities, are following up the start made by the industrial women in seeing the congressmen. Even the congressmen already on our side were impressed by what the working women told them, and would appreciate similar expressions from the women back home. Write to your congressman now, stating the facts about the effect of the so-called Equal Rights Amendment on conditions for working women!

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The proposal above treated upon has been before Congress for a number of years. It has always been vigorously opposed by the American Federation of Labor. Its proponents come largely from a group of women in no way connected with industry as workers.]

Congressman John Dingell of Michigan says the American Hospital Association is raising a slush fund to defeat the A.F.L.'s social security bill.

"Invariably Has Been Kiss of Death"

Readers will recall that in last week's issue of the LABOR CLARION, mention was made in an article by Philip Pearl of the resignation of Samuel Baron as general manager of the Greater New York Joint Board of the Textile Workers' Union (C.I.O.) in protest against the demand of the union's national office that every officer "string along with" Sidney Hillman in certain of the latter's political moves. Reproduced below is the letter of resignation by Mr. Baron.

The American Labor party, mentioned in the letter, is a political organization among various unions in New York. As will be understood from Baron's communication, a fight is on for leadership and control of the party committee. Hillman, who belongs to the Amalgamated Clothing Workers (C.I.O.), is chairman of the C.I.O. National Committee for Political Action.

Specifically, Baron points to the approval by the Textile Workers' Union of a plan promoted by Hillman for the reorganization of the American Labor party on the basis of "unity" with a number of Communist-dominated C.I.O. unions. Though the entire subject is political, and the Baron communication an outgrowth of dissension in C.I.O. affairs as affecting political moves, it is interesting as indicative of some independent thinking within that organization and of refusal to be "bossed." Baron's letter follows:]

"EMILE RIEVE, General President,
"Textile Workers' Union of America,
"153 West 33rd Street,
"New York City.

"Dear Brother Rieve:

"I regret that the decision made recently requiring the officials of our organization to support the so-called Hillman plan for the American Labor party leaves me no alternative but to submit my resignation as General Manager of the New York Joint Board, to take effect immediately.

Origin of Plan

"You are entitled to know the reasons which prompt me to give up an association which I have enjoyed greatly. I shall try to enumerate them briefly, but frankly. The Hillman plan, as you probably know, which Mr. Hillman is offering is not a plan which he originated or formulated, but one which was originally presented to the officers of the American Labor party by representatives of the Communist party. It was submitted as a basis for readmitting the Communists to the American Labor party and to give them a voice in the determination of party policies and decisions.

"The American Labor party officers rejected the plan when it was submitted by the Communists. I heartily concurred in their decision.

Hand of the Reds

"The identical plan now reappears, sponsored by Mr. Hillman. The Communists even now are not divorced from it. When Mr. Hillman's representatives met with the A.L.P. officials to present the plan, one of the representatives he selected for the purpose was a Communist who acknowledges his adherence to the Communist point of view. When the slate for the State Committee was compiled by the Hillman forces it was a well known Communist who called my office and virtually demanded setting a deadline for me for the names of Textile candidates for the Hillman-Communist slate. A Communist-inspired plan, by whatever other name it may be known, is equally repulsive to me. I therefore was among those who favored its rejection, although the auspices under which it appeared have changed.

From Bitter Experience

"Those of us who are familiar with Communist party strategy—and most of us are, since we learned it from bitter experience in the labor movement—know that sooner or later they will attempt to dominate and control the organizations into which they infiltrate. Theirs has invariably been the kiss of death. Moreover, there is such an irreconcilable difference between what they stand for and seek and what we stand for and seek that common action between us is impossible. In the final analysis, such unity, conceived in fraud, must end in deception, since it would mislead the hundreds of thousands of

voters who have consistently supported the A.L.P. in all of its struggles to believe that we believe in democratic processes, while in effect and in fact the party would be controlled by the traditional enemies of democracy.

Compulsion to "String Along"

"Yet my position with respect to this plan would not have affected my official position with our organization, or led me to offer my resignation, if it were not for the fact that the decision which was made by our National Office compelling every officer to string along with Mr. Hillman, regardless of his own views and preferences, confronted me with a choice between my position and my conscience.

"It was my opinion, as I know it was that of others in our organization, most of whom have consistently fought any attempt at Communist infiltration, that our organization ought to support the American Labor party in its effort to keep free from Communist domination. However, if for organization reasons our organization could not take that position, I proposed that our National Office allow our local unions and joint boards in New York State, which are affiliated with the A.L.P., complete autonomy in deciding what position they would take. That was rejected. I thereupon went a step further in the hope that unity on the issue might be preserved provided no one was compelled to act contrary to his convictions and principles. I proposed the adoption of a policy of neutrality, except that I wanted to be free to maintain the principles to which I have adhered. That would not bind anyone but myself. That, too, was rejected.

An Intolerable Situation

"Under our democracy Mr. Hillman has the right to pursue any policy he sees fit politically. But in his desire to attain national political leadership he has created an intolerable situation. He has demanded of the anti-Communist forces in the C.I.O. that, right or wrong, 'we cannot let him down.' In spite of the fact that there was not one official in our organization that had any sympathy for the Hillman plan, we were placed in a dilemma and compelled to take a position with which most of us are in utter disagreement. What is more, the C.I.O. was let into it without prior consultation.

* * *

"In any event, as an individual, I cannot abandon my convictions as to what I am to do politically at anyone's behest. Any attempt to compel individuals to follow the dictates of a political boss, even though he comes from the ranks of labor, is fraught with danger. Political freedom is one of our most precious possessions. It antedates Mr. Hillman. In the labor movement his position of leadership may entitle him

Labor Council Appeals for Donations to Red Cross

The San Francisco Labor Council, in a communication to its affiliated organizations, requests them to give immediate attention to and donate as liberally as their treasuries will permit to the current drive being made for funds by the Red Cross, and also asks the unions to suggest to their membership they be equally liberal in contributing. The communication further states:

"The San Francisco Labor Council has indorsed the annual drive of the American Red Cross, which is already in progress.

"The people of America are asked to give \$200,000,000 this year. San Francisco's share is \$2,643,000—70 per cent more than last year. This is invasion year—and the work of the Red Cross has been enhanced; that is the reason for the increased quota being allotted to San Francisco.

"Labor has always responded liberally, as we know the good work accomplished by the American Red Cross in America, not only in time of war but in time of peace, relieving many people throughout the world in time of flood and disasters of like character."

ON RATION STAMP EXPIRATION

The plan of making a ration stamp good indefinitely without setting an expiration date has been applied to sugar rationing as well as shoes. It is announced that sugar stamp No. 30 in Ration Book Four, which was scheduled to expire March 31, will continue good for an indefinite period, and that the same is true of the next sugar stamp (No. 31 in Book Four), which becomes valid April 1. The O.P.A. hopes the removal of expiration dates will postpone buying of sugar except when it is actually needed, and declares that this in turn is one of the factors which will determine whether the consumer weekly sugar ration will be changed.

to a respectful hearing. But neither he nor anyone else can long or successfully order working people, whether officers or members of the rank and file, to abandon their political views and embrace those he wishes to impose. It will be a sorry day for American labor if and when working people and labor officials must do the bidding of self-constituted political bosses. I, for one, cannot subscribe to that doctrine.

"My association with you and the other officers of our organization has given me a great deal of happiness. I realize fully that what is happening is not to your liking. Your antipathy to the Communists is well known. Your devotion to the principle of political liberty is well recognized. There is nothing personal in the decision I have made. I shall continue to hold you in the highest esteem. I hope the time will come when we shall be able to further cement a friendship I have always prized. In the meantime, I must retire, and I hope you can arrange to name a successor to me without delay.

"Fraternally yours,

"SAMUEL BARON."

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Regional Board Awards Increase to Market St. R. R. Employees

Wage increases for 2000 employees of San Francisco's privately-owned transit system, the Market Street Railway, were last week found proper under the wage stabilization program and have been ordered into effect by the Tenth Regional War Labor Board.

The board awarded an increase of 9½ cents an hour for electric car motormen, conductors and cable-car platform men, bringing the top rate up to 92½ cents an hour. It granted an hourly wage increase of 7½ cents to trolley-coach and bus operators, establishing a top of 97½ cents after 18 months' experience.

Industry members of the tripartite Regional War Labor Board dissented from the wage awards.

Parity Between Two Lines

The new rates establish wage parity between the private utility and the municipal railway for operating employees.

Chairman Neblett of the Regional Board announced that unless an appeal is successfully pressed before the National War Labor Board, June 1, 1943, will stand as the retroactive date for the wage adjustments and other features of the one-year agreement which the board directs the company and the union to sign.

The employees were represented by Division 1004 of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America (A.F.L.).

The regional board denied an increase in premium pay for operators engaged in instructing students, and continued the 10-cents-an-hour rate.

Dispatchers and Receivers

The company's dispatchers and receivers, classed as operating employees, were granted increases of 5 cents hourly or \$10.40 per month "to maintain existing intraplant wage relationship." They had been granted an increase in August 1943 ranging from \$15 per month in the starting rates to \$5 per month at the top rates. Labor members of the regional board dissented on this issue.

A majority of the board (labor members dissenting) awarded increases for non-operating employees, with eight specific exceptions, on the following formula:

"The rates of pay shall be increased 10 cents per hour for hourly-rate non-operating employees, \$20.80 per month for monthly-rate non-operating employees on a 48-hour-week basis, and \$17.35 per month for

monthly non-operating employees on a 40-hour-week basis." The exceptions then were listed.

With industry members dissenting, the board cut the period of platform employee progression through lowest to highest rate from 30 months to 18, and reduced the spread between the minimum and maximum rates from 10 cents to 7½ cents.

Industry members of the regional board also dissented from the majority in ordering a student operator rate of 85 cents an hour.

Chairman Neblett declared that the Market Street Railway dispute presented one of the most imposing tasks the Tenth Regional Board has faced in its thirteen months of administering the wartime wage stabilization program.

Two Issues Unsettled

Twenty-six issues were before the board for settlement. Only two were referred back to the company and the union for disposition through collective bargaining. These were sick leave and the reclassification or termination of certain jobs in the non-operating classifications.

The majority opinion, setting forth reasons for the principal decisions, was prepared by Chairman Neblett.

It recognizes that the board's directive order grants wage parity with municipal railway rates for operating employees of the private utility, and recalls that the union advanced desirability of parity as an argument in favor of increases.

The opinion stresses, however, that parity was not the basis of the board's decisions.

Declared "Going Rates"

"The rates approved for the operating employees represent the sound and tested going rates in the area, and do not depend upon their similarity to the Municipal Railway rates for their justification," the opinion stated.

"They are the standard for all transit companies in the San Francisco Bay area, and even if the Municipal Railway's rates were increased, it would not follow that the rates of other companies would have to be increased correspondingly."

Reasoning of Board Majority

The majority opinion listed the following reasons for decisions covering rates of pay for operating employees:

1. "The 9½- and 7½-cent increases approved, plus the shortening of the period of progression (from 30 months to 18) come much closer than the panel recommendation of a 5-cent increase to preserving the intraplant relationship between the operating employees and the non-operating employees who were granted a 10-cent-per-hour increase."

2. "The board found existing rates paid by the Market Street Railway to operating employees to be obsolete and the system of progression to be archaic

... in order to solve this problem, the board determined what the new minimum sound and tested going rates for operating employees in the labor market area should be, and set the Market Street Railway scales accordingly. . . ."

Follows Prevailing Practice

3. "The new period of progression . . . brings the period into line with the prevailing practice in the labor market area."

4. "Although parity of rates was not the basis of the board's decision, the panel report shows that historically the wage rates paid to platform men by the Market Street Railway and by the Municipal Railway have been quite similar. Approval of the new scales, therefore, will not disturb the established relationship between the two companies. . . ."

5. "The new scales will help to solve the Market Street Railway's manpower problem."

On Non-Operating Employees

Concerning increased wage rates for non-operating employees the majority opinion stated:

"The panel recommended unanimously a 10-cents-per-hour increase . . . and the Tenth Regional War Labor Board approved this recommendation with a few minor corrections . . . the evidence shows that such an increase will not bring the rates above the minima of the wage brackets for the San Francisco Bay area if and when such brackets are established . . . the panel's recommendation is, therefore, in accord with wage stabilization policy."

Relating to Work-Week

The union had proposed that all operating and non-operating employees be placed upon a 40-hour week, with time and one-half paid for all hours worked beyond 40. The company objected. The Regional War Labor Board dispute panel recommended that the 40-hour week be extended to all non-operating employees, 24 per cent of the non-operating employees already being on the 40-hour week, but that the operating employees should remain on the 48-hour week.

A majority of the board (labor members dissenting) decided the hours of work per week now in effect should be maintained, giving as the principal reason:

"The overtime rate of time and one-half after 40 hours per week would be used solely to increase wages and not to encourage a reduction in the number of hours worked, which is normally the function of the overtime rate when applied to a 48-hour week."

More Women in V.P.S.F.

In special ceremonies at Regimental headquarters last Tuesday, three San Francisco women were inducted into the San Francisco Regiment, Volunteer Port Security Force, U. S. Coast Guard.

Taking the oath of service for the duration of the war were Miss Elizabeth Boyd, Mrs. Detta Simon, and Mrs. Regina W. Warr. Each will devote a minimum of twelve hours per week to her military duties. Miss Boyd and Mrs. Simon have been assigned to the Regimental headquarters staff, and Mrs. Warr will serve in the motor corps.

Enrollment for daytime service with the San Francisco Regiment is open to women 20 to 65 years; men 25 to 65 years.

Inquiry about service with this group of patriotic San Francisco men and women should be made at 244 California street (Exbrook 4213).

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Labor Haters Accused of "Planting a Time Bomb"

Industrialists and politicians who are trying to arouse hate against labor were accused by Robert J. Watt, A.F.L. international representative, of "planting a time bomb against our democratic institutions."

Watt made his blunt charge before an audience of 200 employers in Chicago at a national meeting of the American Management Association.

"Without the American army of production soldiers there could have been no successful assault in the South Pacific, no invasion of Africa or Italy," he said. "If American workers had not labored hard and well, there might not have been the heroic story of Stalingrad."

"Despite all this, there are a lot of people, including the top button-pushers in Washington, who think the way to beat Hitler is to put labor in a straitjacket."

Those on top who are preaching the "class struggle" against labor are playing Hitler's game and laying the ground for Fascism in this country, he declared.

The only real way to preserve democracy after the war is for labor and management to start co-operative planning now for post-war stability, Watt contended.

Recommend on City Salaries

The Board of Supervisors last Wednesday returned to the Civil Service Commission recommendations representing \$400,000 more than the \$1,155,000 wage increases asked by the commission for more than 3000 city workers.

Included in the Supervisors' recommendations beyond those asked by the commission were 7½-cents-an-hour raises for 1192 Municipal Railway platform men and bus operators.

Other raises which the Supervisors proposed applied to lower bracket city employees, including janitors, laborers, nurses and trackmen.

The ordinance also places the city on a five-day, 40-hour week with time and a half for anything over.

The recommendations, referred to the commission for study, were scheduled to be formally voted at another special meeting yesterday (Thursday). The commission was requested to report back to the supervisors then.

The carmen's pay raises were proposed by unanimous vote. Dissenting on other salary recommendations was Supervisor Brown.

RECREATION FOR WAR WORKERS

To help war workers stay on the job at top efficiency and to reduce turnover and absenteeism, more than 740 new community recreation centers have been opened in 225 critical production areas, the Office of War Information reports.

FREE BOOKLETS ON TUBERCULOSIS

A new set of booklets on the "Home Care of Tuberculosis," issued by the National Tuberculosis Association, may be obtained free by writing or telephoning the San Francisco Tuberculosis Association, 604 Mission street (Douglas 1104). Four booklets are included in the set.

"Princes are never without flatterers to seduce them, ambition to deprave them, and desires to corrupt them."—Plato.

THE best daily reminder that members of American labor unions are behind the nation's armed forces 100 per cent is to keep a constant flow of union label cigarettes to our soldiers, sailors, marines and coast guardsmen. The sending of union label smokes is one of the best ways of heartening our heroes on the war front, because it is a constant reminder that union labor is backing them up on the home front. What is your union doing?

Further Advance by McCabe

William P. McCabe, superintendent of the Labor Temple, who has been at his home for the past ten days after being confined to a hospital from an attack of pneumonia, is making steady progress toward recovery. For the second time he was taken for an auto ride last Wednesday, which extended over two hours, and he anticipates at least making a visit to the Temple the latter part of the week, though that "feature" of his improvement is yet subject to the decision of his physician.

"The power that is supported by force alone will have cause often to tremble."—Louis Kossuth.

Five Jap Planes Knocked Out by S. F. Union Member

Staff Sergeant Jack Foley, a long-time member of Local 87 of the Building Service Employees' Union, has returned to San Francisco for a well earned vacation, after a hectic two years spent in India. He has seen plenty of action as a tail gunner in the Army Air Corps, has five Jap planes to his credit, and has many medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Jack states he is happy to be here for a visit with his family and many friends, but is anxious to get another crack at the Japs.

As a matter of course, he is still very much interested in the labor movement, for he helped to organize the union he holds membership in, and he has spent several days of his furlough in No. 85's office talking over old times and the labor situation in general. His father, LeRoy Foley, is a well known member of San Francisco Typographical Union.

There are now 1700 conscientious objectors in prison, 75 per cent Jehovah's Witnesses, who will neither work nor fight. About 500 have served their terms and been released.



"Well, Sarge, I was thinking about calling the folks when I get off tonight"

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Run o' the Hook

By FRED E. HOLDERBY
President of Typographical Union No. 21

Notice has arrived from the International Union headquarters that a proposition initiated by Detroit Typographical Union last November had received the required 150 indorsements by subordinate unions, which means it now goes to a referendum of the membership. The date set for this referendum is Wednesday, April 5. Detroit's proposal would delete the second paragraph in Article III, Section 1, I.T.U. Constitution. The language which it is sought to delete reads as follows: "The provisions of Article III Constitution shall be suspended for the duration of the present World War, and the Executive Council is authorized to issue a call for the 87th Convention when wartime restrictions have been removed and the holding of the succeeding convention becomes practicable and possible." A list of unions indorsing the Detroit proposition will appear in the March issue of the *Typographical Journal*.

R. L. Thomas of the *Chronicle* chapel, who had received a telegram last December informing him that his son, First Lieutenant R. L. Thomas Jr., had been reported missing in action in the European theater of war, received the sad news last week from the Red Cross that he had died in a German prison on January 17. Lieutenant Thomas was pilot of a photo reconnaissance plane, and had two years' service in the Army Air Force. He left Hamilton Field for the front last May.

Ernest L. Walker, 175 Nevada street, a member of the *Chronicle* chapel for twenty years until his retirement in 1940, died early last Saturday, March 4, at Fort Miley Veterans' Hospital after an illness of over three months. Deceased had been in bad health for the past three years, and in July, 1941, he had entered the Union Printers Home, where he remained for a year, returning on June 17, 1942. His condition at that time was considerably improved. Born at Cameron, Mo., he was 71 years of age. Joining the union in Kansas City in 1901, he first became affiliated with this local when he deposited a card here on November 12, 1913. He had been a continuous member of No. 21 since 1920. A Spanish-American War veteran, he was a member of Miles Camp in this city. Surviving are the wife, Annie B. Walker, and two sons, Norman W. and Harold R. Walker, both members of the Typographical Union. Union services were conducted at noon on Monday, March 6, at the Halsted chapel, followed by a military service at Golden Gate national cemetery, San Bruno.

Joseph M. Hamblin of the Mercury Press chapel, who had been stationed at a Navy ensign training camp in New York state, arrived in San Francisco last week. Having just received his commission as ensign, he was transferred to the Pacific Coast and assigned to a ship.

Two members returned this week from vacations spent at Palm Springs. John O'Sullivan of the Charles Falk chapel spent ten days at the southern resort, and A. J. Munson of the Zellerbach Paper Company enjoyed a week's rest there. Both report the weather a trifle too chilly for this time of the year in that locality, brought about by the recent southern California storms.

Services under auspices of East Bay Fellowship of Humanity were conducted last Sunday in Oakland for Mrs. John H. Lockman, mother of John B. Lock-

man of the *Call-Bulletin* proofroom. A native of Iowa, deceased was 80 years of age, and had been ill over a long period. Her husband and two other sons survive, William S. of Colfax, Calif., and Frank M. Lockman of North Bend, Ohio.

Sympathy of the membership is extended Alfred H. Phillips, retired member of No. 21, whose sister, Elizabeth Phillips Whaley, with whom he resided, passed away last Monday. Services were conducted yesterday at 2 p. m., at Gray's chapel. Interment was private.

After forty-two years with the *Examiner*, Robert Hetherington on February 24 decided to call it "30," and resigned a position he has held in the ad department of that chapel since 1902.

E. R. ("Dusty") Rhodes and wife of Seattle returned home late this week after ten days spent in the city visiting with friends. Formerly with the *Evening Bulletin*, Rhodes left here for the Puget Sound country in 1926, and has been a member of No. 202 for the past eighteen years. R. M. ("Bob") Johnston of the *Seattle Journal of Commerce*, who visited here in 1940, asked "Dusty" to convey regards to his friends here.

Harold Hansen last week drew a traveler and stated he intended to locate for a time in the East Bay.

Jack Horgan of the *Examiner* machine room, who has been absent from his work for over two months while receiving treatment for a leg ailment, is now at Santa Cruz. It is reported the limb is responding to treatment and is improving daily.

E. E. Porter of the *Chronicle* proofroom took time off the first of the week while trying to get the best of a severe attack of influenza.

Will J. French was up from his home at Los Gatos last week, and was a visitor at headquarters on Friday.

Helen Sassa of the *Examiner* machine room has returned after a two weeks' vacation, which she spent at San Mateo.

The death of Alva B. Moore is reported in last week's *Los Angeles Citizen*. Well known on the Pacific Coast, deceased left this jurisdiction in 1923, and had been a member of Los Angeles union the past twenty years. He is survived by a daughter, with whom he had resided in Sierra Madre.

Frank Forst of the *Examiner* makeup department hit the headlines of the daily press in a big way last Sunday, when he defeated the 1939 and 1942 titlist in the City Golf Championship at Harding Park. Forst tanked a ten-foot putt on the eighteenth hole to best Policeman Jim Molinari, two-time titlist, 1 up.

Staff Sergeant Jack Foley is visiting his father, LeRoy Foley of the Lanson & Gorfinkel chapel, and other relatives while on a three weeks' furlough. Sergeant Foley recently returned from the India-Burma theater of war, where he served with distinction as a tail gunner on a bomber. He has to his credit five Zeros, five probables and four damaged, and has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal. His citation calls for the Silver Star. His furlough ran to February 23, when he was to report back for duty at Santa Monica.

Chairman Richard J. Lee of the Halle-Cordis chapel announces that on Friday, March 3, his wife presented him with a 7-pound 14-ounce son. The new arrival has been named Garry Anthony.

News Chapel Notes — By L. L. Heagney

Friends at the Home mailed Ralph ("Pop") Moore a recent issue of the Colorado Springs *Labor News* which told of an anniversary party to honor Dr. A. Lee Briskman. The occasion highlighted the fifteenth year of his connection with the Home medical staff, and "Pop" says those who have been under his care hope the doctor continues at his post another fifteen years.

It's a mistake, says Bob May, who is connected with one of the services, to assume uniformed personnel take little interest in or care nothing about the voting privilege. On the contrary, they feel strongly about it, and merely because some of them believe the present Washington setup is intelligently fighting the war, and they may vote to continue it, is

no valid reason for obstructing service men's rights to vote.

Holland sounds nothing like Sullivan nor Uribe like Balthasar, still when persons on the phone asked for Holland and Uribe those others were called to answer it. Puzzled on hearing about the mistake yet determined to make something of it, our apostle of get-a-laugh-where-you-can and ambassador of jumping up things, Harvey Bell, managed to get around during the week and personally apologize to all four gents.

Saturday, George Holland underwent an Army physical and passed, conditionally. They informed George he is acceptable for limited duty and may be called within a few months.

There is grief in the Charley Reid home, for the family dog, a Shepherd, 16 years old, passed on last week. During the past 33 years, Charley says, he and Mrs. Reid have owned but two canine friends, the first of which lived to the rarely attained age of 21 years.

"Don't ever think the manpower problem is unsolvable," Harry Cross asserts. "They may be scraping the bottom of the barrel, but if they'd unfasten the staves it's possible I'd be scraped loose."

Folks concerned about the street car situation here should contact Phil Scott and profit. Immediately that a local traffic company began issuing refund coupons good for 1 cent, Phil posted notice he'd pay 10 cents a dozen for them, and got all sorts of offers, the best of which was an offer to sell him a stuffed owl minus a glass eye.

"This is a secret either not worth keeping or too good to keep," Harry Morton proclaimed. "Despite all his efforts to get rich quick and his various passes at Dame Fortune, I just heard Scott tell a panhandler he's short \$2 of enough to eat on."

Accompanying a letter from Mrs. Bob Mahood to Lucille Davis was a wedding photograph of the newlyweds who were married just before Bob went overseas. Bob's last request, Mrs. Mahood wrote, was that she send the chapel this picture in recognition of his appreciation for its thoughtfulness and interest in his welfare all during his Army training period.

Woman's Auxiliary No. 21 — By Mable A. Skinner

We wish to thank the editor for making our excuses last week, also his discourse (or curse) on the vinger. No thanks to friend husband, who made the hing work—but too well.

The rummage sale is a thing of the past, but we are still talking about it. Mrs. Georgia Holderby and her committee, as well as several other members did a grand job. Financially, it was the best sale yet held.

The executive committee will meet at the home of Mrs. Bijou Blade, 1224 Second avenue, next Tuesday, March 14, at 8 p. m.

S.F.W.A. will entertain at the U.S.O., 989 Market street, next Sunday, March 12. Chairman Louise A. Abbott can use a lot of home-made cakes—or just cakes. They must be at the U.S.O. by 8:30 a. m. Sunday. Contact Mrs. Abbott (ATwater 1757).

Mrs. E. F. Colman is very seriously ill at her home, Mr. Colman being unable to find an available room in any hospital. Miss Mary L. Colman has been in the hospital for some time. Both are charter members of S.F.W.A. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Jessie Durloo, who underwent an operation, has returned to her home. She is still confined to bed and with a nurse in attendance.

Mrs. Elizabeth Haines has returned to the city and is visiting with her father, Robert G. Vernor.

We certainly have a hard time keeping up with Mrs. Helen Sears. Her now address is R. 1, Box 255, Redwood City, 1607 Montgomery street.

Golf News — By Fred N. Leach

The regular meeting of the board of directors will be held at 235 Twenty-fifth avenue, San Francisco, on Monday night, March 13 at 7:30 o'clock. At this meeting final plans for the coming cup matches will be made. The matches start with the March tournament, when the qualifying round is played and drawings for matches are made. The first matches will be played at the April tournament, and the matches continue at each tournament until July, when the semi-finals are reached.

This year a change has been made in the qualifying tournament. Every member may have a chance (Continued on Next Page, bottom of Col. 1)

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Mailer Notes

By LEROY C. SMITH

President LeRoy F. Bennetts of the *People's World* chapel, who underwent treatment for a week at Mount Zion hospital for a severe cold, which threatened to develop into pneumonia, returned home last week, looking the picture of health. President Bennetts is among the fathers who have been drafted into military service, and will report to military headquarters at Monterey the latter part of the month.

Resplendent in military uniform, C. J. Ross of the Volunteer Port Security Force, under the Coast Guard, devotes week-ends to patrol duty along the waterfront of the metropolis of San Francisco.

C. J. Ross Jr., aviation instructor in link training at Camp Mather, spent a couple of days on a visit with his parents here, last week.

Walter Miller, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Ross, paid them a flying visit last week. Mr. Miller is an aviation sergeant in the South Pacific sector.

The condition of William D. Williams of the *Chronicle* chapel, suffering from an attack of lung ailment and confined at his home, is reported as somewhat improved.

Though the M.T.D.U. law states that the secretary-treasurer of that organization shall publish a monthly financial statement in the *Typographical Journal*, no accounting statement of finances of that organization have appeared in recent issues of the *Journal*. Some years ago, the secretary-treasurer of the M.T.D.U. did not publish a financial statement in the *Journal* for over three years. No M.T.D.U. unions officially protested. But shortly after the three-year period the president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer held an executive council meeting in a certain city. The president put the question: "Shall a monthly financial statement be published monthly in the *Typographical Journal*?" Adopted unanimously. Thereafter, and up until recently, a monthly financial statement was published in the *Journal*.

Though it could not appear in the *Journal*, no financial statements have been broadcasted by officers of the "Mailers' International Union." But whether M.T.D.U., or "M.I.U.," both are a farce in being dominated by certain "self-sacrificing" mailer politicians.

Run o' the Hook

(Continued from Page Eight)

to qualify whether he attends the March tourney or not. Of course those who play in the March round will come first, then if less than thirty-two players take part in the March play the names to make up the thirty-two will be drawn by lot from among members who have indicated to the secretary their intention to play in the matches. A return postcard will be sent to all members.

It is possible that this month will see the association playing at Millbrae again. However, that is up to the board of directors. If anyone has a special desire to play anywhere in particular, get in touch with a board member.

OFF THE FAIRWAY—Charlie Forst took Jim Molinari in the city tournament. The policeman met his match in several ways. He was outgolfed for one thing. And then Molinari also met his match in another way—and which bothered him quite a bit. Molinari's habit is to rush his opponents. He keeps griping if they take practice swings or are the least bit slow on the tee. This is Molinari's psychological game. But in Frank Fonst, he met a guy he couldn't rush—for Frank never wastes any time in practice swings. He puts the same way, hardly seeming to line up the putt, but he sinks 'em—and it bothered Jim quite a lot because he could not put on the rush ace. . . . Jess Conaway also won his match, and Howard Watson lost his. . . . And who is this Pete Gallagher who won that tough match by default? It's none other than "Acey-Deucey" Paul. . . . When you get those postcards, return them at once so that you can be entered for the match cup play. They'll be in your hands soon.

GLASS COAL CHUTES

Business Week says that coal chutes made of glass have been in use for eighteen months at a coal mine where three months was the normal life expectancy of steel chutes under severe abrasion and corrosion.

I.T.U. Indorsements

The date for indorsement of candidates for the May election to be held by the International Typographical Union has now passed, and announcement was made this week that final, though unofficial, figures show the various candidates to have received the following number of indorsements in a total of 694 local unions:

President—Baker 165, Miller 93, Randolph 323.

First Vice-President—Desper 229, Taylor 435.

Second Vice-President—Brown 309, Holland 268, Walton 73.

Secretary-Treasurer—Gill 355, Harris 95, Ward 139.

Candidates for president, first vice-president and secretary-treasurer are required to receive a majority vote of a local in order to be recorded as having its indorsement. That rule accounts for the difference in figures of the total number of unions and the total of indorsements in the above tabulation.

Gaffney Files for Re-election

Assemblyman Edward M. Gaffney of the Twenty-Sixth District has filed for nomination and re-election on both the Democratic and Republican tickets in the May 16 primaries.

Gaffney is a member of Painters' Union No. 19. He is a Democrat and is serving his second term in the Legislature, where he won favorable recognition of organized labor on his excellent labor record both on roll calls and as vice-chairman of the labor and capital committee.

During the last session, the Twenty-sixth District member was a co-author with Assemblyman Maloney of the legislation that afforded compensation benefits to the employees of the State Harbor Board, protection of the civil service rights of state employees entering the Merchant Marine, and on compensation for members of the civilian defense groups.

In his present campaign, Gaffney has received the unanimous indorsement of his own local, of the Bay District Council of Painters, and of Asbestos Workers' Union No. 16.

Stars and Stripes, soldiers' paper, says strike news in daily press is exaggerated. Says our workers are producing plenty of war goods.

Have You Room in Your Home and Heart . . . ?

Have you room in your home and heart for one of San Francisco's child victims of war conditions? The Community Chest of San Francisco is making this appeal to secure foster homes for children whose family life has been upset by war conditions.

Labor's contributions to the War Chest drive last fall help to maintain the Chest's Emergency Foster Home Service. Actual costs of foster home care—and a little over—are paid by the parents of the children, but the Chest supports the home-finding service.

Both day care and full-time care for infants and children up to 16 years are sought. The most desperate need is for homes for children under 2 years. These children are too young to be accepted in nursery schools. Another need is for homes for the working mother and child, with care for the child through the day.

It is stated that most of the children for whom the Chest's Emergency Foster Home Service is appealing have fathers in the armed services, and that all are the children of mothers who must work, either for the entire support of the family or to supplement an inadequate family income. Many of the mothers are in essential industry.

The "Chest's" Foster Home Service visits families who offer their homes, advises them about securing a Department of Health foster home permit if the home is suitable, and refers mothers in need of care for their children to them. No fee is charged by the Foster Home Service, and no fee is required for a Department of Health permit.

Anyone interested in offering foster care—with all expenses paid—for one or more of San Francisco's young victims of wartime conditions should call Underhill 4701, Extension 12, for further information.

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"We Don't Patronize" List

The concerns listed below are on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the San Francisco Labor Council. Members of labor unions and sympathizers are requested to note this list carefully from week to week:

Adam Hat Stores, Inc., 119 Kearny.
 Advance Pattern Company, 532 Mission.
 American Distributing Company.
 Austin Studio, 833 Market.
 Avenue Hotel, 419 Golden Gate.
 Becker Distributing Company.
 Bruener, John, Company.
 B & G Sandwich Shops.
 California Watch Case Company.
 Chan Quong, photo engraver, 680 Clay.
 Curtis Publishing Co. (Philadelphia), publishers of *Saturday Evening Post*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Country Gentleman*.

Doran Hotels (include St. Regis, 85 Fourth St.; Mint, 141 Fifth St.; Hale, 939 Mission St.; Land, 936 Mission St.; Hillsdale, 51 Sixth St.; Grand Central, 1412 Market St., and the Ford Apartments, 957 Mission St.)

Drake Cleaners and Dyers.
 Forrester Cornice Works, 269 Potrero.
 Gantner & Mattem, 1453 Mission.
 Gates Rubber Company, 2700 Sixteenth Street.
 General Distillers, Ltd., 136 Front St.
 Goldstone Bros., manufacturers of overalls and working men's clothing.
 Lucerne Apartments, 766 Sutter.
 M. R. C. Roller Bearing Company, 550 Polk.
 National Beauty Salon, 207 Powell.
 Navalet Seed Company, 423 Market.
 O'Keefe-Merritt Stove Co., Products, Los Angeles.
 Pacific Label Company, 1150 Folsom.
 Purity Springs Water Company, 2050 Kearny.
 Remington-Rand, Inc., 509 Market.

Romaine Photo Studio, 220 Jones.
 Royal Typewriter Company, 153 Kearny.
 Sealey Mattress Company, 6699 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.
 Sherwin-William Paint Company.
 Sloane, W. & J.
 Smith, L. C., Typewriter Company, 545 Market.
 Speed-E Menu Service, 693 Mission.
 Standard Oil Company.
 Stanford University Hospital, Clay and Webster.
 Sutro Baths and Skating Rink.
 Swift & Co.

Time and *Life* (magazines), products of the unfair Donnelley firm (Chicago).

Underwood Typewriter Company, 531 Market.
 Val Vita Food Products, Inc., Fullerton, Calif.
 Wooldridge Tractor Equipment Company, Sunnyvale, California.

All non-union independent taxicabs.

Barber Shops that do not display the shop card of the Journeymen Barbers' Union are unfair.

Beauty Shops that do not display the shop card of the Hairdressers and Cosmetologists' Department of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union of America are unfair.

Cleaning establishments that do not display the shop card of Retail Cleaners' Union No. 93 are unfair.

Locksmith Shops which do not display the union shop card of Federated Locksmiths No. 1331 are unfair.

S. F. Labor Council

Secretary's Office and Headquarters:
Labor Temple, 2940 Sixteenth Street (Room 214)
Headquarters Phone MArket 6304

The Labor Council meets every Friday at 8 p. m., at the Labor Temple. The Executive and Arbitration Committee meets every Monday, at 8 p. m. The Organizing Committee meets every Friday, at 7:30 p. m. The Union Label Section meets the first Wednesday of every month, at 7:30 p. m.

Synopsis of Meeting Held Friday, March 3, 1944.

Meeting called to order at 8:20 p. m. by Vice-President Haggerty.

Roll Call of Officers—President Shelley excused.

Approval of Minutes—Minutes of the previous meeting approved as printed in the LABOR CLARION.

Credentials—Hospital and Institutional Workers No. 250—Arthur Hare, Evelyn Briggs, Rita Friedlander, Agnes Carroll, Edwin McCarthy, Mary Duffy, Paul Kenner, Ivan Askins, Loretta Mullin, Hanna Driscoll. Municipal Parks Employees No. 311—James Symes.

Report of the Organizing Committee—(Meeting held Friday, March 3.) Called to order at 7:30 p. m. The following were examined, and having been found to possess the proper qualifications the committee recommended that they be seated as delegates to this Council: Laundry and Cleaning Drivers No. 256—Henry Brandon. Sausage Makers No. 203—Albert Koehler.

Communications—Filed: From George Meany, secretary-treasurer, American Federation of Labor, inclosing copy of the recommendations of the labor members of the President's Committee on Cost of Living, to the full committee. Arthur M. Brown Jr., member of the Board of Supervisors, acknowledging our letter and resolution of February 18; also from Supervisors Dewey Mead and Adolph Uhl. Sam Kugel, Acting State Manpower Director, Northern California, inclosing list of members of the labor-management committee. Helen Wheeler, secretary, Miscellaneous Employees No. 110, inclosing copy of letter sent to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. Bevins Austin, campaign director, S. F. War Chest, acknowledging receipt of our check. Weekly News Letter from the California State Federation of Labor, dated March 1.

A communication was received from C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, notifying the Council of a proposed constitutional amendment which would nullify every existing union agreement. Motion, to send copy to all affiliated unions asking their membership not to sign this proposed initiative petition; carried.

Bills were read, referred to the trustees, approved, and ordered paid.

Donations: To S. F. War Chest—Bakery Wagon Drivers No. 484, \$415.34; Cooks No. 44, \$979.50 (this brings their total contribution to date to the War

Chest to \$2468.06); Hotel Service Workers No. 283, \$63.00. To American Red Cross—Bakery Wagon Drivers No. 484, \$207.66.

Referred to the LABOR CLARION: Communication from John F. Shelley, chairman, Senate interim committee on unemployment insurance, announcing a public hearing on the subject of unemployment insurance to be held in Room 115, State building, Los Angeles, March 9, 10 and 11, by that committee.

Referred to the President of the Council: John G. Brucato, chairman, Victory Garden Advisory Council, inviting President Shelley to represent the A.F.L. on the Farmers' Market Advisory Board.

Referred to the Executive Committee: A communication was received from Mathew Woll, chairman of the A.F.L. committee on post-war planning, asking co-operation of our post-war planning committee. Musicians No. 6, complaining about conditions for organists at Woodlawn Memorial Park and Olivet Memorial Park. Civil Service Building Maintenance Employees No. 66-A, requesting the Council's assistance in protesting the Board of Education's school calendar for 1944-1945 granting them only three holidays.

Report of the Executive Committee—(Meeting held Monday, February 28.) Called to order, at 8 p. m., by President Shelley. This being the first meeting of the executive committee since the election, the committee organized by electing the following officials: Chairman, John F. Shelley; vice-chairman, Daniel P. Haggerty; secretary, John A. O'Connell; sergeant-at-arms, Anthony Costa. The rules governing the conduct of the committee for the ensuing term were adopted as follows:

(1) It is mandatory upon the members of the executive committee to attend the meetings of the committee regularly. Absence for three consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse shall be reported to the Council, and the seat of the delegate on the committee shall be declared vacant if no reasonable ground for his absence shall be presented. (2) Meetings of the committee shall be called to order promptly at 8 p. m. every Monday evening, except in case the Council or the secretary shall change the date or determine that no meeting is to be held, and give due notice thereof. (3) No meetings of the committee shall be prolonged after 12 o'clock midnight. (4) A member of the committee whose union is directly involved in a matter to be decided by the committee shall not be allowed to vote thereon in making a recommendation to the Council concerning such matter. (5) All members of the committee are required to support all recommendations of the committee when submitted for approval to the Council, except in case the member requests of the committee to be recorded in the negative, or gives notice that he intends to submit a minority report. (6) Matters presented to the Labor Council on Friday evening which are to go to the executive committee, and require notices to be sent out to insure the attendance of other persons or organizations than the one presenting the matter, will be postponed for one entire week to enable proper notice to be issued and insure attendance of all persons necessary for proper consideration of the matter. (7) No report of business or action transacted by the executive committee shall be published until or before it shall be presented to the regular meeting of the San Francisco Labor Council, except by instruction of a majority of the committee.

In the matter of the communication from the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee inclosing a resolution requesting indorsement and the right to visit the organizations for financial assistance for the benefit of the organization, Miss Decca Truehaft, secretary

of said committee, appeared and explained the purposes of the organization; your committee recommends that the communication and resolution be filed. The committee also discussed the matter of acquainting the unions affiliated with the Council on the setting up of committees dealing with the various governmental agencies so as to assist local unions in preparing cases to be submitted to the various governmental agencies; your committee recommends that these committees be set up and that the president and secretary of the Council appoint the chairman of said committees. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p. m. The report of the committee as a whole was adopted.

Francis Fitzsimmons, formerly a delegate from the Shoe Clerks, and now in the service of his country, addressed the Council.

Unfinished Business—Motion made that the Council again affirm its position in favor of the proper kind of a federal ballot for the armed forces, and that the federal ballot be considered paramount and not secondary to the State ballot that is now in force; also notify legislators in the national Congress accordingly; motion carried.

Reports of Unions—Street Carmen, Division 518—Delegate Foley reported that the finance committee of the Board of Supervisors is going to submit their report to the Board of Supervisors on Monday; some unions are having a little difficulty in getting their requests for increases in pay; ask the assistance of the Council; congratulated Street Carmen, Division 1004, on an award from the W.L.B.; the minority member of the panel submitted a minority report and it was through the fine presentation of that report that the W.L.B. issued their award; thanked Brother W. J. Phillips for his fine assistance in this matter; wage rates for members of Division 1004 are placed on a parity with those of the Municipal Railway employees. Masters, Mates and Pilots No. 90—Have been able to circumvent a move in Washington to take away their bonus when they are operating in war danger zones. Painters No. 1073—Several meetings ago negotiated a purchase of a plot at Olivet Memorial Park. Operating Engineers No. 64—Received an award from W.L.B. for the office buildings, hotels and hospitals, which increases their average wage.

Delegate Thomas White of Warehousemen No. 860 announced that a meeting was recently held and a committee chosen to approach Registrar Cameron King to find out whether it would be possible to appoint registrars who in some instances would be placed on the payroll of the city, and others who would work free, working in their unions, for registration. Registrar King has made a request that fifteen people be chosen from the A.F.L., starting the 15th of March, and those people will be chosen by the following three: Jack Smith, Steve Gilligan and Thomas White. He would like to have fifty people of local unions to devote whatever time necessary to registration. They would start training at the Registrar's office and go out and register their own membership, or any other person who has not registered this year; would like as many representatives of local unions who can, who will give us their names and the local union they represent, and get the people registered.

Delegate Hubbard of Musicians No. 6 reported that Los Angeles has a full-fledged program under way to register voters for the coming presidential election; suggested that labor emulate the example of the theaters in their recent selling of War Bonds by having a monster rally which would be for those who can show a registration certificate.

Brother White of Warehousemen No. 860 announced that on March 19, 20 and 21 a big Army Show will be held at the Civic Auditorium and there is apportioned to labor 30,000 tickets to be distributed to our members. These tickets will be passed out within the next week or so.

Receipts, \$2375.30; disbursements, \$353.56.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. O'CONNELL, Secretary.

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Labor Representatives Report on B.L.S. Living-Cost Index

[Reproduced below is another section of the report made by labor members of the Presidential Committee on the Cost of Living. Two other sections of the report have been given in previous issues of the LABOR CLARION. Other sections of the report deal with food costs, clothing costs, rents, housefurnishings and "miscellaneous." They, however, are quite lengthy. The report in its entirety has now been presented to President Roosevelt.]

The section here reproduced has for its title, "Other Factors Contributing to the Wartime Increase in Living Costs that Have NOT Been Taken Into Account in the Findings of This Report." It will be recalled that the labor members of the committee have emphatically called to public attention the "Deficiencies of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Index" (referred to below as "B.L.S."). The additional section of the report follows:]

The findings of this report, which show a rise in living costs of at least 43.5 per cent for the three-year period ending January, 1944, are minimum findings, since they were arrived at without taking into account and measuring several other important factors that have contributed to the increase in wartime living costs. The report now turns to a consideration of a few of these additional factors.

(A) Black Markets

Neither the B.L.S. Index nor this report take into account rising living costs resulting from sales through black markets. The Special Committee of the American Statistical Association thinks that "(black markets) should not be represented in an official index of living costs." This ethical judgment, however, does not alter the fact that black markets do increase the actual living costs of workers, as sporadic Department of Agriculture reports indicate. B.L.S. states that its Index does not include black market prices, as they are not available. This report does not reflect the contribution of black markets to higher living costs for much the same reason. If data were available to measure the extent to which black markets have raised workers' living costs, such data would be a chief weapon in wiping out such black markets. Therefore, the findings of this report suffer from a downward bias to the extent that they do not reflect black market prices.

(B) Changing Family Expenditures

The B.L.S. Index does not reflect, except to a minor extent, wartime changes in family expenditures. The foundation of the Index is a family expenditure study that was made in the depression years of 1934-36, and which the war economy has made largely obsolete. The B.L.S. reported to this committee that: "In making the Bureau's Index, the importance of each article priced was determined city by city on the basis of actual reports collected in the 1934-36 survey of expenditures of wage earners and clerical workers, the same survey from which the list of goods was selected." Since this depression-year study of family expenditures, no study of similar scope has been made by the B.L.S. which could provide the basis for fundamental changes in the Index.

The B.L.S. has long since recognized the need for an up-to-date family expenditure study, and has made repeated efforts to secure funds from Congress for the purpose of making such a study. The failure of Congress to appropriate funds has handicapped the B.L.S. seriously in its cost-of-living work. Recognizing the growing seriousness of this handicap in the face of drastically changing wartime conditions, the B.L.S.

made an effort to overcome it in the fall of 1943. The Treasury Department made funds available to the B.L.S. to conduct a study of expenditures. Field agents were sent into the field to collect data. But as the agents began to collect their data, the Appropriations Committee of the House ordered the Treasury Department to withdraw its funds from the B.L.S. As a consequence, the B.L.S. cancelled the study and recalled its field agents. No further study has since been attempted.

Inadequate Revision

In the absence of a current family expenditure study, B.L.S. has nevertheless made a few revisions in the Index. The inadequacies of these revisions are acknowledged by the business community. Following the few revisions made in March 1943, *Business Week* (4-17-'43) commented: "Even after overhauling its Index, however, the B.L.S. patently won't have a 100 per cent accurate barometer of wartime prices." At the same time the *Wall Street Journal* (4-17-'43) commented: "The experts are pretty well agreed, however, that despite this repair job, the indexes will still underestimate the price pressure on the average family's household budget. They admit they don't know how great the error will be."

A Few Examples

The inadequacies of the revisions made by the Bureau are apparent from a few examples. One of the repairs made in the Index during the war economy has been to drop out of the Index completely such goods and services as ceased to be available. Thus in January 1942 new automobiles were dropped from the Index; in June and December 1942 used automobiles were dropped, as were new and used tires and tubes. Similarly, between January 1942 and March 1943, other goods that ceased to be available were dropped from the Index, principally consumer durables such as electric refrigerators, gas refrigerators, washing machines, radios, metal bedsprings, studio couches, sewing machines, vacuum cleaners, gas cook stoves, as well as silk stockings, and silk yard goods and silk slips. B.L.S. dropped these goods completely from the Index because they ceased to be available for pricing, except of course used automobiles.

Relied Upon a Guess

In the absence of current family expenditure data, however, the B.L.S. did not know in any precise way how to shift the presumed expenditures from the no longer available goods either to other goods or to savings. It had to rely upon a guess instead of data—in fact, a series of guesses. The Monthly Labor Review for July 1943 reports:

"On the assumption that the money which was being spent for goods no longer available was either saved or spent for other goods and services in approximately the same proportion as other funds available to the family, the aggregate cost of the eliminated goods was transferred from the transportation group to the group of unallocated items for which it is assumed that prices move with the aggregate of costs for all items currently included in the Index." (Italics supplied.)

These assumptions are arbitrary: they are not adequate substitutes for the exact knowledge of what workers are doing with the funds they formerly expended for the items dropped from the Index. The extent to which the Bureau's assumptions vary from

the facts, is the extent to which its Index is in error in measuring changing wartime living costs. In its findings, the present report has not taken this factor into account in arriving at its findings; if it had done so this factor would unquestionably reveal an even greater increase in wartime living costs.

Food, Away from Home

In respect to increased expenditures for food consumed away from home, some quantitative data are available. For food consumed away from home B.L.S., based upon its 1934-36 study, allocates 9 per cent of the food budget. Earlier in this report it has been established that the volume of food consumed away from home has increased by nearly 100 per cent, in the last three years. This change, and its consequent effect upon living costs of workers, is, of course, not taken into account by the B.L.S. Index. Neither has it been taken into account in the findings of this report. If it had been, it would have shown an even larger increase in food costs.

Change of "Weights"

In March 1943, the B.L.S. changed the weights of several of the foods in the Index. These changes were not based upon any knowledge of actual wartime family expenditures, but rather upon estimates, assumptions or guesses. For example, the weight in the Index given to vanilla cookies was reduced from 1.8 to 1.7. Vanilla cookies are taken by the B.L.S. to represent the family of bakery products. Actually the amount of workers' food expenditures for bakery products has increased, not decreased, in the war economy. As raw sugar for home baking became scarcer, and as female members of the household went into war work, home baking declined and as a consequence family expenditures for baked goods have risen. *Baker's Helper*, a trade paper (12-13-'43) reports, for example, an increase of 30 per cent in the sales of cake from 1942 to 1943. In this respect, therefore, the downward revision made by the B.L.S. is open to question.

White granulated sugar affords another illustration. Sugar also represents jams and jellies in the Index. Its weight was reduced from 3.4 to 1.6 in March 1943, presumably because it was rationed and the quantity consumed decreased. Part of this weight (.6) was transferred to corn syrup, but the total weight for the food family represented by sugar in the Index was reduced from 3.4 to 2.2. The same factors contributing to greater purchases of baked goods have forced workers to spend more money for packed jams and jellies. Here again the B.L.S. change is probably in the wrong direction.

Such factors as faulty shifting of weights upon higher food costs has not been taken into account in the findings of this report, with the consequence that our findings are on the low side.

Another instance is the dropping of used cars from

(Continued on Next Page)

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Labor Officials' Report on B.L.S. Living-Cost Index

(Continued from Page Eleven)

the Index in December 1942. After used cars were dropped from the Index, B.L.S. ceased to reflect changing prices for used cars. What happened in the last half of 1942 and throughout 1943 in the sale of used cars is common knowledge. Car dealers bought used cars at higher than normal value and resold them, especially in war centers, at inflated prices. War workers, lacking other means of transportation for work, were compelled to buy these cars at exorbitant prices. But by ceasing to collect their prices, the B.L.S. Index of course does not reflect this increased wartime cost. Again it must be noted that the findings of this report, therefore, have a conservative bias to the extent that they do not take this factor into account.

Labor Shares Business View

Labor shares the views of business, previously noted, that the revisions which B.L.S. has made in the Index during the war years are inadequate. And they are inadequate because of the lack of a current study of family expenditures. The extent to which the 1934-36 study is obsolete is the extent to which the Index fails fully to reflect increased wartime living costs.

Our report, likewise, has made inadequate allowance for radical wartime changes in the distribution of family expenditures. Without extensive new data on family expenditures it is impossible to make full allowance for these shifts. Our findings, in consequence, provide an understatement of the actual increase in living costs.

An example will suffice to show why the absence of up-to-date expenditure figures results in understatement. The available evidence indicates clearly that expenditures for meals away from home have become of substantially greater importance in workers' budgets than the 9 per cent weight used by B.L.S. Yet our report makes no allowance for this fact. Realistic changes regarding the extent of this increased importance would, as we show in the discussion of restaurant prices, raise the percentage increase for food quite substantially and would noticeably raise the combined percentage for all commodities.

(C) War Centers

Wartime living costs have risen considerably faster in the smaller communities affected by expanding war production than they have in the large cities covered by the B.L.S. Index. An examination of the thirty-four cities in the Index reveals the disparity.

[The report here refers to a "relatively small city," Savannah, Ga., which is a war center, and quotes from a War Manpower Commission report on conditions there. It then continues:]

An examination of the B.L.S. cities shows that Savannah is outstanding in the degree to which living costs have increased above other cities and the national average. Where the national average rose 23.4 per cent from January 1941 to December 1943, Savannah rose 30 per cent, or more than one-fourth more. All other cities vary from the national average

only slightly except Seattle and San Francisco, which also have had large wartime population increases.

Thus it is clear that the Index suffers from a downward bias because it fails to reflect the greater rise in living costs in the many war centers, particularly the smaller cities and towns, throughout the country. The findings of this report similarly do not take into account the influence of these war centers, except in the case of rents.

(D) Moving Expenses

Wartime shifts and dislocations in population have forced a substantial increase in moving expenses upon the workers affected. These additional living costs are not reflected by the B.L.S. Index though B.L.S. figures (Labor Monthly Review, July 1943, pages 1-4) indicate that over five million workers have shifted their place of living from one community to another due to moving to war work. In making these moves, the affected workers have incurred extra moving and transportation expenses that contribute heavily to increased living costs. Such increased costs are not reflected by the Index, although they obviously materially affect the miscellaneous group of expenditures on which a subsequent report will be made. In addition to moving expenses, the worker and his family, in moving to a new city, inevitably pay relatively high prices because they do not know the ropes. It takes time to learn where to buy most economically. The findings of this report similarly do not take into account the extent to which wartime migrations have raised actual living expenses.

(E) Dual Places of Residence

Another increase in wartime living costs that neither the B.L.S. Index nor this report consider is the extra living expenses incurred by many war workers who, in shifting their place and location of employment, have been unable to move their families at the same time or at all. In such cases the affected workers are compelled to maintain two places of residence: their original home and a room in a boarding house. Even those workers who can move their families, have to maintain two residences for weeks and months before they find houses into which they can move. This report does not attempt to measure such increased cost of maintaining dual residences which falls on many war workers.

(F) Increased Taxes

Neither the B.L.S. Index nor this report reflects higher living costs resulting from increased direct taxes. A prevalent view, in which B.L.S. concurs, is that the effect of direct taxes should be accounted for at the other end of the stick from living costs, namely, income. Whether the effect of increased direct taxes is shown in the form of higher living costs or in the form of lower disposable income is academic. This report, therefore, avoids controversy on this matter and does not take into account increased direct taxes in measuring the wartime increase in workers' living costs.

(G) War Bonds and Other Savings

As in the case of direct taxes, neither the B.L.S. nor this report takes into account increased savings resulting from bond purchases and other forms of savings. That they affect disposable income and expenditures is obvious.

Expansion of Merit System In Governmental Agencies

Advance of the merit system during 1943 by establishment of new programs and extensions and consolidation of existing programs occurred generally at the city and county levels of government, the Civil Service Assembly reports.

Twelve cities and three counties adopted civil service laws, one state and one county extended civil service, and four states reorganized their civil service systems.

The merit system was reorganized in Georgia, where the Legislature authorized the Governor to appoint a three-member council to administer a merit system for employees of the state departments of labor, public welfare and health, consolidating the separate merit system councils for each of the three departments.

In Pennsylvania the merit system law was amended to provide that all appointments, reclassifications and promotions made under the state merit system are war duration appointments, made in accordance with rules established by the various departments rather than with existing civil service laws.

A California law extended the merit system to include employees of the State Railway Commission and employees of the Attorney General's office, other than clerical employees already included. Legislative action in Tennessee also placed employees of the publicly owned Nashville electric service under civil service.

THE I.L.O. CONFERENCE

The twenty-sixth session of the International Labor Conference, opening April 20, will be held at Temple University in Philadelphia. The conference will last from three to four weeks. At least forty member states of the International Labor Organization are expected to be represented.

WILL MAKE ALARM CLOCKS

Australia, which never made an alarm clock before the war, having imported about 150,000 a year from Europe and the United States, now has found it necessary to enter the industry.

BAY AREA SHIPBUILDING

Six Bay Area shipyards launched 29 of the 124 new ships sent down the ways by American shipbuilders in January. The Richmond yards led the production race, turning out 20 Liberty ships.

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